

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A notification system, comprising:

a monitor that monitors a state of a device, the monitor derives a context of a user from the state of the device, and, based at least in part on the context, the monitor infers a likely available state of the ~~users~~ user; and

a bounding system that classifies a notification to the user with a predefined notification priority, the bounding system defers the notification based at least in part on the notification priority and the likely available state of the user, the bounding system establishes a group of notifications associated with at least first and second priorities and forwards the group of notifications to the user based on an occurrence of a notification with a highest priority affiliated with the group of notifications, wherein content of at least the highest priority notification included in the group of notifications is presented, on a display area, to the user in its entirety, and content of notifications associated with lesser priorities included in the group of notifications are displayed, on the same display area, for the user as a summary.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 1, wherein the predefined priority is assigned based upon ~~the happening~~ an occurrence of a condition.

4. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 3, further comprising a subscription user interface to enable users to configure attributes of a notification, wherein the bounding system that classifies a notification with a predefined priority, classifies the notification with ~~[[a]]~~ the predefined priority based at least in part on the attributes of the notification.

5. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 4, wherein the attributes are defined in a notification schema.

6. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 5, wherein the notification schema further ~~comprising~~ comprises at least one of a notification class, a source, a source assigned priority, a sender, a target, one or more content components, a relevant context, or advanced attributes.

7. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 5, further comprising a preferences profile for assigning priority based upon settings in the notification schema.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 1, wherein the monitor derives the context based at least in part from at least one of a calendar or a time of day.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 1, wherein the context includes at least one of an office setting, an environment setting, an activity setting, or a driving setting.

16. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 1, further comprising a notification agent that directs notifications from one or more sources to one or more notification sinks based at least in part on [[the]] a predefined protocol and the likely available state.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 1, further comprising a ~~max~~ maximum deferral setting that is associated with a notification priority to enable at least one of a delivery of the notification at a time-out of the ~~max~~ maximum deferral, and deferral of the notification to the likely available state being free.

20. (Currently amended) The notification system of claim 19, further comprising a setting to enable designated notifications to at least one of be passed-through, and restricted during designated periods.

21-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

- monitoring a state of a device;
- deriving a context of a user from the state of the device;
- inferring a likely available state of the user from the context;
- classifying a first notification based on a predefined notification classification as a first classification;
- deferring the first notification directed to the user based on the first classification and the likely available state of the user;
- classifying a second notification based on the predefined notification classification as a second classification, the second classification being different from the first classification;
- deferring the second notification directed to the user based on the second classification and the likely available state of the user;
- establishing a group of notifications including the first and second notifications;
- determining that the second notification should be forwarded to the user;
- forwarding the group of notifications to the user based at least in part on determining that the second notification should be forwarded;
- presenting, on a display, a content of the second notification included in the group of notifications to the user in its entirety; and
- presenting, on the display, a content of the first notification as a summary together with the content of the second notification.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein classifying the first notification includes classifying the first notification based at least in part on a source of the first notification, a source assigned priority of the first notification, one or more content components of the first notification, of a relevant context of the first priority.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising receiving input from the user through a subscription user interface to configure attributes of a notification to be considered in the predefined notification classification.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein monitoring a state of a device includes monitoring at least one of a calendar, a time of day, a device activity, or a user location.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein determining that the second notification should be forwarded to the user includes determining an age of the second notification as exceeding a second max deferral setting that is associated with the second classification.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein presenting a content of the first notification as a summary is based at least in part on the first classification and a determination that an age of the first notification does not exceed a first max deferral setting that is associated with the first classification, the first max deferral setting being longer than the second max deferral setting.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, further comprising displaying to the user a list of possible states of the device that could be monitored, the list including a length of pauses in typing, actions in an application, and a length of pauses after actions in an application.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising receiving from the user a context associated with selected possible states of the device that could be monitored.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the group of notifications forwarded to the user contains either the entirety of the content or summary content for each notification awaiting delivery to the user classified by the bounding system.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55 wherein the group of notifications forwarded to the user contains either the entirety of the content or summary content for each classified notification awaiting delivery to the user.

65. (New) A notification system, comprising:

a monitor that:

monitors a state of a device, and

derives a context of a user of the device from the state of the device; and

a system that:

assigns a notification priority to a notification to the user,

defers the notification based at least in part on the notification priority and the context,

groups a plurality of notifications to the user into a group, wherein at least one first notification in the group is assigned a first priority and at least one second notification in the group is assigned a second priority, and wherein the first priority is higher than the second priority,

identifies a display time based on an expiration of a deferral time of the at least one first notification and the context, and

displays, on a display at the identified display time, the plurality of notifications, wherein content of the at least one first notification assigned the first priority is displayed in its entirety and content of the at least one second notification assigned the second priority is displayed as a summary, and the at least one first notification and the at least one second notification are positioned on the display to indicate that they are in the group.

66. (New) The notification system of claim 65, wherein the at least one second notification is displayed on the display below the at least one first notification.

67. (New) The notification system of claim 65, wherein the at least one second notification is displayed on the display regardless whether a maximum deferral time of the at least one second notification is expired.

68. (New) The notification system of claim 65, wherein the at least one second notification comprises a plurality of notifications each associated with a priority lower than the first priority, and wherein the plurality of notifications from the at least one second notification are displayed on the display in order of their priorities.

69. (New) The notification system of claim 65, wherein a degree of summarization of the content of the at least one second notification displayed as the summary corresponds to a value of the second priority.

70. (New) The notification system of claim 69, wherein the degree of summarization increases higher when the value of the second priority decreases.

71. (New) The notification system of claim 65, wherein the least one second notification is associated with at least one gesture, and wherein, upon receiving a user input with respect to the at least one gesture, the system displays additional information on the at least one second notification.